CLAIMS

1. A method for treating a subject exposed to a microorganism that binds to DC-SIGN, said method comprising administering a compound in an amount effective to inhibit the binding of said microorganism to DC-SIGN.

2. The method of claim 1 wherein said compound inhibits binding of β-1,2-oligomannoside to DC-SIGN.

3. The method of claim 1 wherein said microorganism is a fungus.

4. The method of claim 1 wherein said microorganism is a yeast.

5. The method of claim 1 wherein said microorganism is *Candida*.

6. The method of claim 5 wherein said microorganism is the species *Candida albicans*, *Candida dubliniensis* or *Candida glabrata*.

7. The method of claim 1 wherein said microorganism is *Aspergillus fumigatus*.

8. The method of claim 1 wherein said subject is a human.

9. The method of claim 1 wherein said compound is selected from the group consisting of β-1,2-oligomannoside, FHENWPS (SEQ ID NO:1), ICAM-2, ICAM-3, and antibodies that bind DC-SIGN.

10. The method of claim 9 wherein said antibody is selected from the group consisting of AZN-D1, AZN-D2 and AZN-D3.

11. The method of claim 9 wherein two or more compounds that inhibit binding of the microorganism to DC-SIGN are administered in combination.

12. A method of inhibiting infection comprising administering a compound that at least partially inhibits binding of an infection-causing microorganism to DC-SIGN on dendritic cells.

13. The method of claim 12 wherein said compound is selected from the group consisting of β-1,2-oligomannosides, FHENWPS (SEQ ID NO:1), ICAM-2, ICAM-3, and antibodies that bind DC-SIGN.

14. The method of claim 12 wherein said compound is an antibody to DC-SIGN.

15. The method of claim 12 wherein said compound is a β-1,2-oligomannoside or FHENWPS (SEQ ID NO:1).

16. The method of claim 12 wherein more than one compound that inhibits binding is administered.

17. A method of preventing infection by *Candida albicans* comprising administering a compound selected from the group consisting of β-1,2-oligomannosides, FHENWPS, ICAM-2, ICAM-3, and antibodies that bind DC-SIGN.

18. The method of claim 17 wherein said compound is an antibody that binds to DC-SIGN.

19. The method of claim 17 wherein said compound is selected from the group consisting of AZN-D1, AZN-D2 and AZN-D3.

20. A method for promoting an immune response in a subject exposed to a microorganism that binds to DC-SIGN, said method comprising administering an antigen found in said microorganism in an amount effective to bind to DC-SIGN and cause an immune response to the antigen.

21. The method of claim 20 wherein said antigen is a purified antigen.

22. The method of claim 20 wherein said antigen is administered by administering an inactivated form of the microorganism.

23. The method of claim 20 wherein said antigen is bound to an antibody that binds to DC-SIGN.

24. The method of claim 20 wherein said antigen is bound to FHENWPS (SEQ ID NO:1), β-1,2-oligomannoside, ICAM-2 or ICAM-3.

25. The method of claim 23 wherein said antibody is AZN-D1, AZN-D2 or AZN-D3.

26. The method of claim 20 wherein said microorganism is a fungus.

27. The method of claim 20 wherein said microorganism is a yeast.

28. The method of claim 20 wherein said microorganism is *Candida*.

29. The method of claim 28 wherein said microorganism is the species *Candida albicans*, *Candida dubliniensis* or *Candida glabrata*.

30. The method of claim 20 wherein said microorganism is *Aspergillus fumigatus*.

31. The method of claim 20 wherein said subject is a human.

32. The method of claim 20 wherein said antigen is β-1,2-oligomannoside or FHENWPS (SEQ ID NO:1).